

(c) whether Government have also inquired into these complaints; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received a complaint alleging fraud and financial irregularities by retired Lt. Gen. P.N. Hoon through M/s Kalgindar Construction Company (P) Ltd.

(c) No, Sir. The Officer retired several years ago and is no longer governed by the Army Act.

(d) Does not arise.

T-90 Vs MBT Arjun

2738. **SHRI R.P. GOENKA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have recently signed a deal for purchase of 310 frontline Russian T-90 battle tanks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including its special features *vis-a-vis* the indigenous MBT "Arjun", the time-frame fixed for its induction into the Indian Army; and

(c) whether and to what extent this deal will affect the production of indigenous MBT "Arjun"?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A contract has been signed on 15.2.2001 for the import of 124 Fully Formed T-90S Tanks and 186 Tanks in Completely Knocked Down (CKD)/Semi Knocked Down (SKD) form alongwith Transfer of Technology for indigenous manufacture in India. T-90S Tank is a state of the art tank with 125 mm gun having missile firing capability and weighing 46.5 tons and a crew of 3 men. The MBT Arjun Tank has 120 mm gun without missile firing capability, weighing 58.5 tons and has a crew of 4 men. T-90 tanks are planned to be inducted into the Indian Army by early 2002.

21 March, 2001

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The acquisition of T-90 Tanks does not in any way affect the indigenous production of MBT Arjun.

Non-Testing of missiles imported during 1996

2739. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that missiles imported during 1996 were not tested for their accuracy and effectiveness for two years and in the meantime the warranty period expired causing loss of Rs. 3.41 crore to the State;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into for such an apathy of not only causing financial loss to the State but also affecting the defence preparedness; and

(c) the action Government has taken or propose to take to bring in discipline in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Missiles were shipped to India in August 1996 from the supplier. These were tested within the warranty period. For defective supplies replacements were provided. No financial loss has occurred in this regard.

Land acquisition for INS Kattabomman

2740. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families whose lands have been acquired for setting up of INS Kattabomman in Thirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of families who have been provided employment so far;

(c) the number of families who have not been provided employment so far; and

(d) by when the wards of such families will be provided job?